

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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P R 141535Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9875

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16203

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UR, CH

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET TIDBITS

1. SUMMARY. VIKTOR LOUIS SAYS HIS ARTICLE REPORTING SOVIET JOY OVER THE PURGES IN PEKING SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN "TOO SERIOUSLY"; THE CHINESE CHARGE CONFIRMS HUA'S APPOINTMENTS AS PARTY CHAIRMAN AND HEAD OF THE MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION; A SOVIET U.S. SPECIALIST WARNED OF NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. MILITARY SUPPLIES TO CHINA; SOVIET OFFICIALS DEALING WITH CHINA REMAIN TOTALLY UNAVAILABLE.

2. EMBOFF CALLED VIKTOR LOUIS TODAY TO ASK ABOUT THE STORY HE REPORTEDLY WROTE FOR LONDON EVENING NEWS ON OCT 12. LOUIS CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD SENT THE STORY (WHICH HE SAID HAD ALSO RUN IN FRANCE SOIR), THEN CAUTIONED THAT
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IT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN "TOO SERIOUSLY." IT FIT INTO

THE CATEGORY OF PRESS "SPECULATION," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT WAS PLAUSIBLE TO ARGUE THAT THE REMOVAL OF MME. MAO,WHO WAS KNOWN FOR HER STRONGLY ANTI-SOVIET VIEWS, WOULD BE SEEN AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT BY MOSCOW. HE SAID THAT ONE SHOULD NOT SPECULATE BEYOND THAT--IT WAS CLEARLY TOO EARLY TO GUESS WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE EITHER IN PEKING OR MOSCOW. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY LONDON PLEASE CABLE FULL TEXT OF LOUIS STORY.

3. EMBOFF QUERIED PRC CHARGE WANG CHIN-CHING ABOUT LOUIS STORY AT DINNER PARTY ON OCT 13. WANG SAID THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE STORY AND THAT IN ANY CASE THE SOVIETS COULD NOT BE TRUSTED. THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN UP THEIR AGGRESSIVE WAYS BUT HAVE SIMPLY SOUGHT TO PUT ON A BETTER FACE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, SAID WANG. SOVIET POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED, HE ASSERTED, AND CHINESE POLICY WOULD NOT EITHER.

4. ON THE REPORTED PURGES IN PEKING WANG SAID THAT HE KNEW ABOUT THE PRESS REPORTS BUT HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION AT ALL FROM PEKING ABOUT THAT MATTER. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE "COULD CONFIRM THAT HUA KUO-FENG HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY'S MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION." ON THE POSSIBLE NAMING OF A NEW PREMIER, WANG SAID THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION AND COULD NOT SPECULATE. COMMENT. WANG CARRIED ON LONG SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF AND WIFE, MOST OF WHICH CONCERNED HIS OBSERVATIONS ON THE SOVIET SCENE OVER HIS THREE TOURS (THIRTEEN YEARS) IN MOSCOW. HE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE PLEASANT AND GREGARIOUS. END COMMENT.

5. LEV SEMEYKO, MILITARY AFFAIRS EXPERT AT THE INSTITUTE OF THE USA AND CANADA, PRESSED EMBOFF AND AARMA ON OCT 13 FOR INFORMATION ON FORMER SECDEF SCHLESINGER'S VISIT TO CHINA AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER U.S. WOULD PROVIDE CHINA ANY MILITARY GOODS--"EVEN SYMBOLICALLY." EMBOFF SAID THAT U.S. HAD NO SUCH INTENTION, THAT CHINESE HAD SAID REPEATEDLY THAT THEY WOULD NEVER CONFIDENTIAL

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ASK, AND THAT CHINA STILL GETS MORE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE USSR THAN FROM ANY OTHER FOREIGN SOURCE. SEMEYKO DISMISSED THE LAST POINT, THEN SAID SERIOUSLY THAT "YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT ANY PROVISION OF U.S. MILITARY ITEMS TO THE PRC, EVEN SYMBOLICALLY, WOULD IMMEDIATELY CAUSE GRAVE DAMAGE TO U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS." GESTURING WITH A SHARP DOWNWARD SWEEP OF THE HAND, HE STRESSED THAT "SOVIET LEADERS" WOULD VIEW

SUCH DEVELOPMENT AS DECIDEDLY "UNFRIENDLY" BY THE U.S. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED HOW THIS POSITION TALLIED WITH MOSCOW'S SUPPOSED INTEREST IN IMPROVING ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH PEKING, SEMEYKO PAUSED FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS THEN SAID, "IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE." HE SAID THAT DESPITE MOSCOW'S "GENUINE" INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS, HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT SOON, NOR EVEN A MEASURABLE REDUCTION IN THE CONFRONTATION. SUCH CHANGES TAKE A LONG TIME, HE SAID. THEN TURNING THE POINT AROUND, SEMEYKO SAID THAT THE U.S. SHOULD "WELCOME" BETTER SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, SINCE STRONGER SOVIET INFLUENCE OVER THE CHINESE WOULD PREVENT CHINESE "ADVENTURISM" AGAINST AMERICAN INTERESTS IN ASIA.

6. SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, ALL SOVIET OFFICIALS WHO DEAL WITH CHINA HAVE BEEN TOTALLY UNAVAILABLE TO FOREIGNERS AT LEAST SINCE MAO'S DEATH. (THEY WERE ALSO UNAVAILABLE TO US DURING THE PREVIOUS FEW WEEKS, BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT THIS WAS TRUE FOR ALL OTHERS, OR THAT IT WAS NOT GENUINELY THE RESULT OF VACATIONS.) THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY TRIED FOR THE PAST WEEK TO ARRANGE A CALL BY THE FORMER NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR TO PEKING, BRYCE HARLAND, ON MIKHAIL KAPITSA, CHIEF OF THE MFA'S FIRST FAR EAST DIVISION, BUT WAS TOLD THAT KAPITSA WAS "UNAVAILABLE" AND "OUT OF TOWN." ITALIAN CHARGE MIGLIORINI SAID HE HAS CALLED FOR TWENTY-ONE CONSECUTIVE WORK DAYS FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT ANY LEVEL AND HAS BEEN TOLD IN EACH CASE THAT THE OFFICIALS ARE "SICK," "ON LEAVE" OR "OUT OF TOWN." OTHER MISSIONS INCLUDING OURS HAVE RECEIVED THAT SAME ANSWERS TO REPEATED CALLS. WE WERE TOLD ON OCT 13, HOWEVER, THAT IGOR ROGACHEV, CHIEF OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ASIA SECTION OF THE POLICY PLANNING ADMINISTRATION, WOULD BE BACK IN TOWN "NEXT WEEK." MATLOCK

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